

R E M A R K S

By this Amendment claims 1-3, 8 and 9 have been amended to better define the invention. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krokstad et al., he has rejected claims 2-5, 7 and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krokstad et al. in view of Arcos et al., and he has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krokstad et al. in view of Arcos et al. and Le Bel.

The applicant asserts that these rejections cannot be applied to the amended claims.

Krokstad et al. disclose a programmable hybrid hearing aid with digital signal processing which includes a main section 1 that defines an electroacoustical transmission channel based on digital signal processing and a signal processor (DSP) and with possibility for suppressing a possible signal feedback through the acoustic transmission channel. In one embodiment the hearing aid includes two microphones and the feedback signal may be suppressed by phasing out before the digital signal processing, while the digital signal processing also includes cancellation of the feedback signal in case of high gain. The examiner refers to column 12, lines 44-61, as teaching "analyzing the signals from the microphones in order to detect when the casing of the listening device

is being touched.” However, this passage in Krokstad et al. reads as follows:

“Normally the user will be offered a menu of several response functions with a corresponding number of stored parameter sets. The menu control is installed in the control unit CU and is called continuously and cyclically by means of a cycle generator CG coupled to the control unit and connected to a control device in the form of a pressure or touch keypad SW which with advantage may be installed in the ear opening on the outside of the hearing aid’s main section 1. By a light touch on the control keypad the user will access a new set of parameters for a specific response function from the memory RAM2 in the hearing aid’s control section and input it to the digital signal processor DSP. Successive touches of the control keypad SW access all the menu’s response functions in succession, and thus, by means of a few touches, the user can quickly find the response function which best suits his acoustic environment and required amplification.”

However, this passage describes no link between the analyzing of the microphone signals and the detection of the casing of the listening device being touched.

Aros et al. disclose a hearing aid including one or more amplification channels, each including a bandpass filter establishing the frequency range of that particular channel. Le Bel disclose a silenceable speaker with preannounce tone detection.

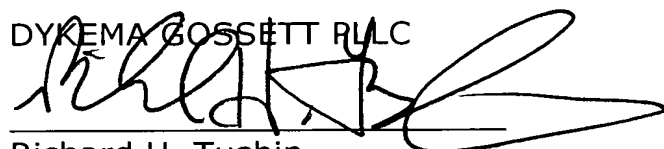
None of the presented prior art appears to disclose the basic idea of the invention: to detect and recognize the specific event of the hearing aid casing being touched by the user solely by analyzing the microphone signals. It is important to the invention that it is exactly this event, which is being detected, as thereby the possibility arises of using such detection as an input means for the hearing aid. In this way possibly a switch or similar input means may be avoided. It should be noted that Krokstad specifically teaches usual input means on the surface of the hearing aid, which means that a hearing aid according to Krokstad will have to provide switches or the like on the surface of the hearing aid if the user is to communicate or give input signals to the hearing aid.

The examiner's prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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